



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 4a

Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter
101 Eighth Street
Oakland, CA 94607-4700
TEL 510.817.5700
TDD/TTY 510.817.5769
FAX 510.817.5848
E-MAIL info@mtc.ca.gov
WEB www.mtc.ca.gov

Memorandum

TO: Legislation Committee

DATE: July 6, 2012

FR: Executive Director

W. I. 1131

RE: Update on Federal Surface Transportation Reauthorization

Surprising many in the transportation community who had given up on the prospect of Congress enacting a transportation bill with a duration beyond a few months, on June 29th Congress enacted H.R. 4348, known as MAP 21, providing federal highway and transit programs with \$105 billion through FY 2014 — roughly equivalent to current levels. The breakthrough in negotiations came about when the House Republican leadership dropped its insistence on two controversial provisions — approving the Keystone XL oil pipeline from Canada and preventing regulation of toxic coal ash waste from power plants. In return, Senate Democrats agreed to other changes in the surface transportation provisions of the bill.

In general, while the bill maintains the structure of the existing programs, it does contain a number of significant policy changes including, but not limited to:

- Changes the formulas that determine how Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality and Surface Transportation Program funds are distributed
- Consolidates a number of highway and transit programs
- Streamlines project delivery in several significant respects
- Expands TIFIA (the federal credit assistance program) to \$1 billion per year (from about \$100 million) and increases the maximum federal share from 33 percent to 49 percent
- Creates a new State of Good Repair program for public transit
- Simplifies the New Starts process and permits “core capacity improvement projects” to qualify

Staff will provide you with a detailed summary and analysis of the bill at your July 13 meeting.



Steve Heminger